Talk about commitment! When it comes to Mary, we certainly do.

Before being approved as a Growing Places gardener, Mary had her work cut out for her. Trees had grown up at the front of her lot and were blocking sun from the prime garden site. What’s more, we weren’t even sure we could access the site for a garden installation. Steep, narrow steps and limited space to deliver soil seemed like pretty unyielding challenges. We nearly didn’t approve her application.

But Mary wasn’t about to give up so easily. A few persistent phone calls to Unitil about tree removal and a great group of volunteers later, Mary has a flourishing garden for her and her son, Zander, to enjoy.

And she’s not alone in her efforts. Mary was referred to our program by Bob, our 2013 Budding Volunteer award winner, and is now working with him as her mentor alongside mentor-in-training, Erica, who just happens to be Bob’s former mentee. Together, three of them make a wonderfully communicative, dedicated group that inspires us through their willingness to embrace gardening outside the box...literally. Rather than be frustrated by the limited space in Mary’s yard, they’ve made use of the space beyond her two raised beds. There are strawberry plants in the cinder blocks and an herb garden by the fence. We’re looking forward to seeing how the season turns out and what they’ll try next. Keep the pictures coming!

Clockwise starting at top, Zander watering the garden; strawberry plant tucked in the cinder block, raised beds planted with cool and warm crops.